

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Dec. 3, 2009

For More Information, Contact: Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl North Dakota Department of Health

Phone: 701.328.2372 E-mail: <u>lcanton@nd.gov</u> <u>sleberl@nd.gov</u>

Tim Wiedrich Receives National Excellence in Public Health Award

BISMARCK, N.D. – Tim Wiedrich, Emergency Preparedness and Response Section chief for the North Dakota Department of Health, received the State-Level Excellence in Public Health Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) at its recent meeting in Virginia.

The Excellence in Public Health Award is presented in two categories – national-level and state-level – and recognizes outstanding national leadership on behalf of the public health community. The award honors Wiedrich's leadership in organizing and initially chairing the Directors of Public Health Preparedness. According to ASTHO, the organization has been incredibly important to public health since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Wiedrich joined the North Dakota Department of Health in 1984 as a program representative for the Division of Emergency Health Services and was appointed director in 1988. Since 2002, he has been chief of the department's Emergency Preparedness and Response Section.

Previous recipients of ASTHO's Excellence in Public Health Award include California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and former CDC Director Julie Gerberding.

For more information, contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, public information officers, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov